

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-14 /106 W
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R 212223Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19853

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CN, FR
SUBJ: COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENT, AHMED
ABDULLAH, TALKS TO LE MONDE ABOUT DESIRE FOR IMPROVED
RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND WITH THE COUNTRY'S INDIAN
OCEAN, AND AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, ACKNOWLEDGES AND JUSTIFIES
ROLE OF MERCENARY DENARD AND SPEAKS OF FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENT FOR THE ISLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENTS AHMED ABDULLAH AND MOHAMED
AHMED ARE CURRENTLY IN FRANCE WHERE THEY ARE MEETING
WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. LE MONDE FOR JUNE 21
CARRIES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AHMED ABDULLAH QUOTED
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BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR VISIT?

ANSWER: WE WISH TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELA-
TIONS WITH FRANCE. IN EFFECT, SINCE THE UNILATERAL
DECLARATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY,
SENEGAL HAS REPRESENTED OUR INTERESTS WITH THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE THAT AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS

WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN PARIS AND MORONI.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ALSO COME TO SEEK ECONOMIC AID?

ANSWER: EVEN THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS THE EXACT STATE OF THE COMORIAN ECONOMY AFTER THE DISASTROUS ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRECEDING GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE NOT COME HERE TO SOLICIT.

QUESTION: DO YOU JUSTIFY THE COUP D'ETAT OF MAY 13 BY THE DEGRADATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION?

ANSWER: THAT IS JUST ONE ELEMENT AMONG OTHERS. IN FACT, THE REGIME OF ALI SOILIH WAS A BLOODY TYRANNY. IF THE COUP D'ETAT SUCCEEDED PRACTICALLY WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT, IT IS BECAUSE THE CORMORIAN POPULATION HAD REACHED THE END.

QUESTION: ARE YOU NOT BOTHERED BY THE FACT THAT THE MAN WHO OVERTHREW THE REGIME OF ALI SOILIH WAS THE FRENCH MERCENARY BOB DENARD?

ANSWER: WE DID NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE. THE SITUATION WAS VERY GRAVE AND NECESSITATED IMMEDIATE MILITARY ACTION. NO ONE ELSE WAS BETTER ABLE TO HELP US REALIZE OUR OBJECTIVES.

QUESTION: DOES BOB DENARD EXERCISE MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN MORONI?

ANSWER: NO HE IS NOT A MINISTER. HE OCCASIONALLY PARTICIPATES IN THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTORATE. THIS PARTICIPATION IS PROVISIONAL. THIS BODY (DIRECTORATE) IS PROVISIONAL. AT THE MOMENT EVERYTHING IS PROVISIONAL IN THE COMOROS. WE ARE

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PREPARING A CONSTITUTION TO PUT AND END TO THIS
TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: DO YOU ENVISAGE PROFOUNDLY MODIFYING
THE INTERIOR POLICIES OF YOUR COUNTRY?

ANSWER: AS WE ALREADY DECIDED IN AUGUST 1975,
THE REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS ISLANDS WILL BE FEDERAL
AND ISLAMIC. UNDER ALI SOILIH IT WAS UNITARY AND
FEROCIOUSLY HOSTILE TO THE MOSLEM RELIGION.

QUESTION: AND FOREIGN POLICY?

ANSWER: WE HOPE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL
THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OAU AND PARTICULARLY WITH
MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA, KENYA, AND THE SEYCHELLES WHICH
ARE OUR NEIGHBORS. WE HOPE TO ENTER, AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, INTO THE ARAB LEAGUE, THERE TO JOIN OUR
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CO-RELIGIONISTS. SINCE JULY 1975, WE HAVE MADE KNOWN
OUR INTENTION OF ADHERING TO THE LEAGUE, BUT THAT WAS
REFUSED BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-ISLAMIC POLICY FOLLOWED
BY ALI SOILIH. OUR REQUEST REMAINS IN EFFECT.

QUESTION: WILL YOU PERSONALLY GO TO THE OAU
SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM NEXT MONTH?

ANSWER: WE WILL GO THERE. EITHER MOHAMED AHMED
OR MYSELF. IN ANY CASE, THE COMORIAN MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. MOUDJRAE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE
PREPARATORY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR
JULY 7 IN THE SUDANESE CAPITAL.

QUESTION: DID YOU RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE
RETURN OF MAYOTTE TO THE COMORIAN ENTITY WITH MR. STIRN
(FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND
WILL YOU RAISE IT WITH OTHER FRENCH INTERLOCUTORS?

ANSWER: THE PROBLEM OF MAYOTTE HAS NOT BEEN

RAISED IN PARIS, EITHER WITH OUR FRENCH FRIENDS OR
WITH MR. MARCEL HENRY, LEADER OF THE MAYOTTE MOVEMENT.
THAT IS NOT OUR AIM. BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT AS SOON
AS WE HAVE COMPLETELY NORMALIZED OUR RELATIONS WITH
FRANCE, OUR RELATIONS WITH MAYOTTE WILL BE EASIER.
THE PEOPLE OF MAYOTTE ARE OUR BROTHERS EVEN IF THEY
HAVE IDEAS DIFFERENT FROM OURS.
HARTMAN

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